

# THE Dan Smoot Report

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DAN SMOOT

## THE ASSASSINATION

On November 21, 1963, President and Mrs. Kennedy and Vice President and Mrs. Johnson, accompanied by Governor and Mrs. Connally and other Texas political figures, aides, and members of the press, began a tour of Texas.

Governor Connally had opposed the Texas tour, thinking it politically unwise.<sup>(1)</sup> The Democrat Party in Texas was in great turmoil, torn by internal dissension. A recent special election had revealed astonishing Republican Party strength in Dallas. Factions and personalities of the Democrat Party, jockeying for position and prestige, were blaming each other because Texans generally seemed to be in a mood to repudiate new frontierism at the polls in the next elections.

Neither the growing strength of conservatism nor the factional strife among liberals in the Democrat Party created any special *danger* for the President in Texas. There was no extraordinary anxiety about his *safety*, but Governor Connally did feel that a Kennedy visit at this time would create more and deeper cleavages in the ranks of the Democrat Party.<sup>(2)</sup>

President Kennedy, however, decided to come to Texas as a "peacemaker" for his own political party.<sup>(3)</sup>

The tour began in San Antonio. The crowds were large, friendly and orderly. It was the same in Houston and in Fort Worth. The presidential entourage arrived at Love Field, Dallas, at 11:37 a.m., Friday, November 22, greeted by a large, friendly gathering of Dallasites. The President and the Governor, and their wives, got into an open limousine for a parade through Dallas. The President and Mrs. Kennedy sat in the rear seat, the President on the right side. On jump seats in front of them were Governor and Mrs. Connally, the Governor directly in front of the President.

The motorcade formed with the presidential car immediately behind the lead car, the Vice President and other dignitaries and members of the press following. It made a 12-mile drive into and through downtown Dallas, along a route which had been widely publicized for days —

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by stories and maps published in both major newspapers. The route was lined by cheering, friendly people.

After passing through downtown Dallas, the motorcade made a left turn from Houston Street on to Elm Street. The Texas School Book Depository Building is at that corner, to the right of the passing motorcade. An assassin waited at an open window on the sixth floor of that seven-story building. He was armed with a 6.5 mm., old model, Italian-made, bolt-action rifle, a 4-power scope-sight mounted on the receiver. Presumably, at that second, he was looking directly down on the President, but did not fire. The presidential car moved about 100 yards down Elm Street away from the building. Mrs. Connally turned in her seat and said:

"Mr. President, you can't say Dallas doesn't love you!"<sup>(1)</sup>

A split-second later — 12:30 p.m. — the assassin fired three shots in quick succession. The first shot apparently hit President Kennedy in the neck. He clutched himself and partially rose, as the second shot struck him in the head, inflicting the mortal wound.

As Governor Connally turned to see what had happened, the third shot from the assassin's gun struck him in the back, traversed the chest area without entering the body cavity, splintered a rib, emerged, struck the Governor's right wrist, ricocheted, and lodged in the Governor's left thigh. Had the Governor not turned, the bullet would probably have pierced his heart.

The motorcade momentarily slowed down, almost to a halt, before a Secret Service agent in the President's car gave orders over the car radio to proceed to the nearest hospital. The lead car lunged forward at high speed, swung onto Stemmons Freeway a few yards ahead, and rushed to City-County Hospital, known as Parkland Memorial, the President's car following close, the remainder of the motorcade trailing. On the way, they passed the Trade Mart, where a crowd was

waiting to hear the President make a luncheon speech.

The President's car arrived at the hospital at 12:35, five minutes after the shooting. The Governor, still conscious, helped move himself to a stretcher. He was taken to one emergency room, the President to another. Two priests, who had been watching the parade on television, rushed to Parkland and were admitted shortly after the President's arrival. They administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church. At 1:30 p.m., it was officially announced that the President was dead.

Vice President Johnson left almost immediately for the airport. At 2:05 p.m., Mrs. Kennedy followed in a hearse bearing the body of the President. The body, in a bronze casket, was put on the presidential plane at Love Field. On the plane, before take-off, Federal Judge Sarah T. Hughes administered the presidential oath of office to Lyndon B. Johnson.

At 2:47 p.m., Air Force 1 left Love Field for Andrews Air Force Base near Washington. Air Force 1 is the special presidential plane, a big silver-blue-and-white jet.

At Parkland Hospital, Governor Connally remained on the critical list while undergoing surgery for four hours. He responded well and was expected to be released from the hospital within 14 days, without significant residual effects from his wounds.

At the scene of the crime several spectators had looked up in time to see the murder weapon projecting from a window. The building was quickly surrounded by armed officers. Others, with guns drawn, searched inside. Employees of the Texas School Book Depository were on their lunch hour, most of them outside watching the parade. One of the police officers who searched inside the building was accompanied by R. S. Truly, a supervisor of the book depository firm. They encountered Lee Harvey Oswald, walking toward an entrance, to leave the building. The officer asked who he was. Mr. Truly said Oswald

worked there. He permitted to leave."

On the sixth floor, at an open window overlooking Elm Street, police officers found the sniper's nest: concealed from the rest of the large storage room by cartons of books. An improvised gun-rest was at the window sill. On the floor were three empty rifle cartridges, the remains of a packaged fried-chicken lunch, and a soft-drink bottle. Near the door leading into a stairwell on the sixth floor, across the large room from the sniper's window, officers found a rifle, stuffed under some boxes."

Normally, only employees would have access to the sixth floor of this building, or would know readily how to reach it. The whole floor is used as dead storage, and even employees infrequently go there.

These circumstances led police to conclude that all employees on duty that day should be examined immediately. All were soon located, except Lee Harvey Oswald. A description and arrest order were broadcast.

At 1:00 p.m., Mrs. Earlene Roberts, housekeeper of a rooming house at 1026 N. Beckley Avenue, saw Lee Harvey Oswald dash through the living room, into his own room, then leave the house in great haste, having changed jackets in his room. Oswald (using the alias, O. H. Lee) had lived alone in a small room at this rooming house for two months. The place is in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, less than a mile west of the scene of the assassination.

At 1:15 p.m., Officer J. D. Tippit, cruising in a police car near Oswald's Beckley Avenue rooming house, on the lookout for an assassin suspect whose description had been broadcast, saw Oswald. Mrs. Helen Markham, an eyewitness, said that Officer Tippit pulled his car to the curb. Oswald walked to the car and leaned in the window. Officer Tippit got out and walked around behind the car. Just as he stepped on the sidewalk facing Oswald, Tippit stopped. At that instant, Oswald fired three shots from a hand gun, at pointblank range, killing Officer Tippit instantly.

At 1:18 p.m., a passerby used the police radio in Tippit's squad car to notify police headquarters that an officer was lying there dead and that the assailant had run away. Squad cars converged on the place. Meanwhile, police were receiving numerous calls that a man was running wildly through the section (reloading his gun as he ran), cutting through parking lots, darting in and out of stores.

With such leads, police followed the trail to the Texas Theatre on West Jefferson Avenue, where the cashier reported that a man had run in a few moments before and was still inside.

On a poster ad at the theatre entrance was this motto:

"There are some things that only the people that do them understand."

Inside, an old film, *War Is Hell*, was on the screen. The theatre was almost deserted. Oswald sat alone, near the back. Officers converged on him. When one was in reach, Oswald leaped up, screaming, "This is it! It's all over now!" With one hand, he hit the officer in the face. With the other, he drew his gun and pulled the trigger. The firing pin fell on a loaded cartridge, but the gun did not fire. The officer wrenched the gun from Oswald's hand. Oswald fought violently, and suffered minor face bruises before he was subdued.

At 2:00 p.m., Oswald, under arrest, defiantly claiming innocence, and protesting "police brutality," arrived at Dallas police headquarters where he was later charged with the murder of Officer Tippit.

Just before midnight on Friday, November 22, Lee Harvey Oswald was formally charged with the murder of President Kennedy. The circumstantial and positive evidence against him—available at the time of this writing:

(1) On March 20, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald, using the alias A. Hidell, and a Dallas Post Office box number for an address, ordered a rifle (for \$12.78) from a mail order house in Chicago. FBI experts identified the handwriting on the gun

order as the handling of Oswald. The gun was later identified as the weapon which police found in the book warehouse.

(2) Ballistic examinations identified the gun found in the warehouse as the rifle which killed President Kennedy and wounded Governor Connally.

(3) Oswald's fingerprints were found on the murder weapon.

(4) Pictures found in Oswald's effects showed him holding a rifle which looks exactly like the assassin's weapon, and wearing in his belt a hand gun which looks like the one in his possession at the time of arrest. In the photographs Oswald is holding papers on which are visible the words "Be Militant" and "The Worker."

(5) A paraffin test revealed gunpowder flecks on Oswald's cheek, which is presumptive evidence that he had recently fired a rifle. The powder flecks were identical in kind with powder flecks in the empty cartridges and gun found in the book warehouse.

(6) Since September 24, 1963, Oswald's wife (Marina Nicholaevna Proosakova) has been living at Irving, Texas, in the home of Mrs. Ruth Paine, a former Russian language teacher. Oswald lived in Dallas, visiting his wife and two children at Irving on weekends. He got his job as a stock clerk at the Texas School Book Depository on October 15, 1963. Mrs. Oswald admitted that Oswald owned a gun that looked like the one found in the school book warehouse. He kept it in the garage at Mrs. Paine's home in Irving where Mrs. Oswald lived. Mrs. Paine was not aware of the gun.

Oswald spent Thursday night, November 21, with his wife in Irving (although he usually visited her there only on weekends). When Oswald went to work in Dallas on Friday morning, Wesley B. Frazier (a neighbor of Mrs. Paine) gave him a ride. Oswald was carrying a long, thin package (about the size of a rifle) wrapped in brown paper. He told Frazier it was a package of window shades.

(7) Oswald's palm prints were found on boxes under the sixth-floor window from which the shots were fired.

(8) A bus driver identified Oswald as a man who boarded his bus near the warehouse, saying the President had been shot, and laughing about it. Oswald rode one block. When he left the bus, he hailed a cab. A cab driver identified Oswald as a man he picked up a block from the assassination scene, a few minutes after the event, and drove to Beckley Avenue.

(9) Among Oswald's effects, police found a map of the President's parade route through Dallas. Various intersections on the route were marked, among them the intersection at Elm and Houston where the school book warehouse stands. Lines drawn on the map at this point appeared to be estimates of bullet trajectory from an upper window in the building to the spot on Elm Street where the President was actually hit.

For almost 48 hours after his arrest, Oswald maintained his sneering, sometimes grinning, posture of innocence — claiming that his civil rights were being violated, demanding that he be permitted to communicate with lawyer John J. Abt in New York City (a notorious defender of communists),<sup>14</sup> clamoring to be defended by the American Civil Liberties Union of which he claimed to be a member.<sup>15</sup> In short, Oswald behaved exactly like the communist that he admitted being. He told the police nothing of value.

Among police officers questioning Oswald were some of the finest law officers in the world, but they were working under severe handicaps. Literally thousands of people were milling around, hundreds of them with access to virtually all parts of the jail: Secret Service agents, FBI men, State officers, newspaper reporters, radio and television commentators and cameramen. The Dallas city jail is not equipped for efficient handling and interrogation of such a prisoner as Oswald, under such conditions.

Police could not move the prisoner from one room to another without forcing their way

through clamoring crowds in the corridors. The police, trying to handle the most difficult and important case of all time, had to work with the entire world looking over their shoulders, knowing every step they took, every step they planned, every development in the accumulation of evidence.

Of all the people who hung around the police department to watch and listen, the man who had the most burning thirst to hear and see was Jack Rubenstein, alias Jack Ruby, a local police character who came to Dallas from Chicago 15 years ago and who operates the Carousel, a strip-tease night-club beer joint in downtown Dallas. Within thirty minutes after Oswald was first brought to police headquarters, Jack Rubenstein was there, asking questions, picking up every fragment of information about the evidence against Oswald, about what he had told police.

Rubenstein crashed press conferences which only accredited reporters were supposed to attend. He seemed forever underfoot. Numerous local reporters and police officers who know the man noticed him and wondered why he was there. Everyone seemed to assume that someone else had authorized Rubenstein's presence, without time to reflect on the absurdity of such an assumption.

Oswald was scheduled for transfer from city jail to county jail on Sunday, November 24. The precise time of the transfer had been announced at a press conference more than 12 hours before (one of the press conferences which Rubenstein crashed). In the removal of Oswald from the city jail, police were, again, handicapped by their physical facilities. It is impossible to back an armored car to the door of the elevator which connects the city hall basement garage with the jail upstairs. The armored car, intended to transport Oswald to county jail, was placed at an entrance to the basement garage. That left an interval of several yards, between the elevator and the car. Police would have to walk Oswald across that space. Broadcast and newspaper cameramen from all over the world jammed the basement area just before noon on Sunday, waiting to

get pictures. Only accredited reporters and police were supposed to be there.

Somehow, Jack Rubenstein wormed his way into the crowd. At 11:21 a.m., the elevator door opened and several officers emerged, two of them holding Lee Harvey Oswald, handcuffed, between them. Rubenstein darted forward, stuck a small hand gun almost against Oswald's stomach, and fired one shot. Rubenstein tried desperately to shoot again, obviously determined to kill Oswald on the spot, but police got his gun before he could fire another shot.

Oswald was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital. He died at 1:07 p.m., near the spot where President Kennedy had died 48 hours before.

Circumstances raise a strong presumption that there was a connection between Oswald and Rubenstein and that Rubenstein killed the assassin to silence him:

(1) In the final hours of Oswald's stay in Dallas city jail, he had begun to show signs of breaking, as he was confronted with evidence piling up against him. Experienced persons at city hall felt certain he would confess and tell what he knew, after he was transferred to county jail, where better facilities would enable officers to work with the prisoner and the evidence, under less harassment. Rubenstein unquestionably knew about this anticipated development in the case. Rubenstein was familiar with physical facilities in the city jail: he knew where police must walk the prisoner from elevator to armored car. Whatever Rubenstein's motive may have been, he certainly knew that his only chance to kill Oswald would occur in that brief passage in the basement of city hall. If Rubenstein's motive was to silence Oswald, he *had* to do it before Oswald reached the armored car. After that, Oswald would have been in maximum security confinement at county jail where he was expected to start talking.

(2) Presuming that the motive was to silence Oswald before he could talk, why would Rubenstein openly commit a murder to avoid the possibility of being implicated in another murder?

Rubenstein would know that anyone found guilty of involvement in the death of a President would die, in disgrace. If he killed the assassin and then offered the defense that he acted irrationally through an excess of grief about the President's murder and the President's bereaved family, he stood a good chance to get a light sentence which might soon be followed by pardon — or, even, to get no prison sentence at all.

(3) One television picture of the shooting of Oswald has been re-run, in staggered slow motion, possibly on all networks, several times. The picture clearly reveals that, in the split-second before Rubenstein pulled the trigger, Oswald turned and looked at his approaching assailant. Many who have studied that remarkable picture are certain there was a flash of recognition on Oswald's face when he saw Rubenstein.

(4) Jack Ruby's Carousel Club in Dallas was closed indefinitely on Friday, after the President's assassination. Bill Crowe of Evansville, Indiana (a nightclub entertainer whose stage name is Bill DeMar), had just completed two weeks of a five-week engagement at Ruby's Carousel. DeMar's act at the Carousel displayed a feat of memory. He would ask 20 customers in the place to name various objects, in rapid order. Then, at random, DeMar would tell each one what object he had named. DeMar, a memory specialist, is positive that Lee Harvey Oswald was one of the patrons who named an object for DeMar during his act at Ruby's Carousel in Dallas, a few days before the assassination of President Kennedy.

## Motives

The first official comment from communist Russia, about the assassination of President Kennedy, came from Tass, official news agency of the Soviet Union. Tass said the assassination was the work of "racists, the Ku Klux Klan, and Birchists." In a second article, Tass said the assassination was a "new link in the chain of crimes committed by southern racists and extremists."<sup>(1)</sup>

About the same time on the day of the assassination, Chief Justice Earl Warren said the Presi-

dent was assassinated "as a result of the hatred and bitterness that has been injected into the life of our nation by bigots."<sup>(2)</sup> The people whom Earl Warren generally calls "haters" and "bigots" are American constitutional conservatives.

Practically every liberal in the United States, who was quoted during the first hour or two after the President's assassination, joined Soviet officials and Chief Justice Earl Warren in assuming that American conservatives (which liberals usually call "right-wing extremists," "right-wing fanatics," or "ultra-rightists") were guilty.

After it became known that the assassin was a communist, the tone changed a bit. Some liberals veered to the position which conservatives had taken at the outset—namely, that the assassination was a horrible, meaningless act of violence by some madman, an act which could occur anywhere at any time, and which should not be taken as reflecting any political mood or condition in Dallas or elsewhere.

Other liberals, no longer in position to accuse conservatives of killing the President, kept insinuating that conservatives were responsible for creating an atmosphere of hate and distrust—an atmosphere which nourishes violence. This was the line that Earl Warren took, after it became known that the assassin was not a "right-wing bigot," but a communist.

The communist line in the United States and in the Soviet Union veered to the position that "right-wing elements" had somehow arranged the assassination in order to discredit communists. The East German communist government said that "ultra-reactionary circles" instigated the murder of President Kennedy because "they did not like his policy toward the Soviet Union and his attitude toward racialists."<sup>(3)</sup>

Concerning the atmosphere of political turmoil prevalent in Texas at the time of the assassination: it was mentioned at the outset of this *Report*, and should be re-emphasized, that Texas conservatives (the so-called ultra-rightists) had nothing to do with creating that atmosphere. It

was created by bitter... and hatreds within the ranks of the Democrat Party — chiefly, among liberal elements of the Party. It should also be re-emphasized that this political bitterness in Texas, engendered by liberals, had nothing to do with the murder of the President.

Even after it became known that the assassin was a communist, many thoughtful conservatives felt that the assassination might be nothing more than an isolated act by a fanatic, operating alone and without reason. The Rubenstein sequel puts a different complexion on the matter. It raises the presumption that there was a plot, in which Oswald and Rubenstein were cheap, expendable tools at the command of others.

If the assassination was that kind of plot, who is the most likely suspect? The forces of international communism? That seems unlikely. As indicated by the quotation (above) from the East-German communist government (and from numerous other statements by communists, set out in this *Report* during recent months), communists felt they could get along better with President Kennedy than with any other American who might become President. There is, however, speculation that the international communist conspiracy instigated the assassination of President Kennedy, not because communists disliked him, but to make a martyr of him, calculating that the ensuing turmoil would halt the rising tide of con-

servatism and silence *crises* of new frontier policies which communists are clearly on record as approving. We will discuss this extraordinary theory in a subsequent *Report*.

In a subsequent *Report*, we will also give details on the life of the late assassin — including such interesting items as the report that the State Department lent him American tax money to return to the United States from Russia, after he had defected to the Soviet Union and renounced his American citizenship; and the fact that the pro-Castro Fair Play For Cuba front which Oswald represented was originally financed in New York City by Cuban delegates to the United Nations.

## The Interim

While the nation is in emotional turmoil over the assassination, two dangers are imminent: (1) that conservatives, wincing over efforts to blame them for the President's death and thus reluctant to associate themselves with anything that even smacks of criticism of the now-martyred President, may lose heart and slacken their efforts; (2) that Congress, in a sentimental stampede to make a gesture to the memory of President Kennedy, may approve new frontier legislation which

## WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Born in Missouri, reared in Texas, Dan Smoot went to SMU in Dallas, getting BA and MA degrees in 1938 and 1940. In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for a doctorate in American Civilization.

In 1942, he left Harvard and joined the FBI. As an FBI Agent, he worked for three and a half years on communist investigations in the Industrial Midwest; two years as an administrative assistant to J. Edgar Hoover on FBI headquarters staff in Washington; and almost four years on general FBI cases in various parts of the nation.

In 1951, Smoot resigned from the FBI and helped start Facts Forum. On Facts Forum radio and television programs, Smoot spoke to a national audience, giving *both* sides of controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his present independent publishing and broadcasting business — a free-enterprise operation financed entirely by profits from sales: sales of *The Dan Smoot Report*, a weekly magazine; and sales of a weekly news-analysis broadcast, to business firms, for use on radio and television as an advertising vehicle. The *Report* and the broadcast give only *one* side in presenting documented truth about important issues — the side that uses the American Constitution as a yardstick. The *Report* is available by subscription; and the broadcasts are available for commercial sponsorship, anywhere in the United States.

If you think Dan Smoot is providing effective tools for Americans fighting socialism and communism, you can help immensely — by helping him get more customers for his *Report* and broadcasts.

heretofore had little chance of passing. In this connection, the people should urge Congress to adjourn until a new Congress convenes next January. Under present conditions, with this Congress in no position to legislate sensibly, no additional legislation is advisable.

## Officer Tippit

A few hours after the assassination of President Kennedy, J. Evetts Haley, Sr., noted Texas historian, visited me. He noticed, what I had observed, that, while the world sympathized with the Kennedy family, no one, at that moment, seemed to think of Officer J. D. Tippit, slain in line of duty, by the same assassin. Officer Tippit, age 39, left a wife and three children who will need help. Mr. Haley wrote a check to the J. D. Tippit Fund, and mailed it to Jesse Curry, Dallas Chief of Police, saying he wanted to do this not only to help the Tippit family, but also as a tribute to the brave law officers of Texas. Simultaneously,

other efforts were initiated in Dallas to raise money for the Tippit family.

I mention these details, because I have had calls from persons who want to send checks to me for the Tippit family. Checks should be made to the J. D. Tippit Fund and sent directly to the Dallas Police Department.

## FOOTNOTES

- (1) "Connally Wanted President To Call Off Trip to Texas," by Allen Duckworth, *The Dallas Morning News*, November 23, 1963, Section 4, p. 5
- (2) "Politics That Brought Kennedy to Texas," by Margaret Mayer, *The Dallas Times Herald*, November 24, 1963, p. 10A
- (3) "Mrs. Connally Says Husband Past Peril," by Wick Fowler, *The Dallas Morning News*, November 25, 1963, Section 4, p. 1
- (4) *The Dallas Morning News*, November 23, 1963, Section 1, pp. 1, 2; Section 4, p. 1
- (5) "Oswald Linked to Mail-Order Rifle," by George Carter, *The Dallas Times Herald*, November 24, 1963, pp. 1A, 3A
- (6) UPI dispatch from Moscow, *The Dallas Morning News*, November 23, 1963, Section 1, p. 1
- (7) AP dispatch from Washington, *The Dallas Morning News*, November 23, 1963, Section 1, p. 6
- (8) AP dispatch from Moscow, *The Dallas Morning News*, November 23, 1963, Section 1, p. 5

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Washington officialdom uses your taxes for programs that are creating vast cesspools of waste and corruption — and dragging our Republic into the quicksands of socialism. What can you do about it?

You can help educate and arouse the people who elect men responsible for harmful programs of government. When enough other Americans know and care as you do, political action to restore our Republic will come.

If *The Dan Smoot Report* was instrumental in bringing you to the point of asking what you can do about saving the country from mushrooming big government, here is a checklist for you: Have you urged others to subscribe to the *Report*? Have you sent them reprints of a particular issue of the *Report*? Have you shown them a Dan Smoot film? Have you ever suggested a Bound Volume of *The Dan Smoot Report* for use by speakers, debaters, students, writers? Have you read and passed on to others any of the Dan Smoot books — *The Invisible Government*, *The Hope Of The World*, *America's Promise*?

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# THE *Dan Smoot Report*



DAN SMOOT

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## A STRANGER IN THEIR MIDST

President John F. Kennedy was murdered by a communist in Dallas. Dallasites, both liberal and conservative, were more completely thunderstruck by the crime than any other people in the world, because many were actual eyewitnesses; all had a feeling of closeness to the deed. Yet, all over the world, Dallasites were accused of hate-mongering fanaticism, of having molded the twisted mind of Lee Harvey Oswald, a stranger in their midst.

Lee Harvey Oswald was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 18, 1939. His father died before he was born. His mother works as a practical nurse.<sup>(1)</sup>

A part of his boyhood was spent in Fort Worth, Texas, where he went to public schools. In 1953, he and his mother moved to New York. Oswald attended a junior high school in the Bronx for a few weeks. He was arrested for truancy and given a psychiatric examination. Psychiatrists recommended that he be committed, saying he was a potentially dangerous schizophrenic. He was not committed. He and his mother also lived briefly in North Dakota.

Oswald said he became interested in marxism when he was 15, after reading a pamphlet about Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (American communists, executed as spies).

In 1956, at the age of 17, Oswald enrolled as a freshman in Arlington Heights High School, Fort Worth. He dropped out after 23 days, and joined the Marine Corps. In boot camp, he qualified as sharpshooter on the rifle range; but he never adjusted to life in the Marines, as he never adjusted to life anywhere else. He was forever in trouble. He served in the Philippines and in Japan as a radar operator, with the rank of Private First Class. He was twice court-martialed while in Japan: the first time for carrying an unregistered pistol; the second time, for swearing at a non-commissioned officer.

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Claiming that his mother was ill and needed his help, he applied for, and received, a hardship discharge from the Marines in September, 1959, and was assigned to the Marine Corps inactive Reserve; but instead of going home to his mother, he boarded a ship for the Soviet Union, with \$1600 he had somehow acquired. This was a move he had been preparing for during his last two years in the Marines. He arrived in Moscow on October 15, 1959, and told American reporters there that it was like getting out of prison. Soon after his arrival, he petitioned the Supreme Soviet for Soviet citizenship.

Although Russian officials warned him that Soviet citizenship was not easy to obtain, Oswald referred to the Soviet government as "my government" and said "even if I am not accepted, on no account will I go back to the United States."<sup>(12)</sup>

On October 30, 1959, he went to the American Embassy in Moscow to renounce his American citizenship. He told officials he was a marxist.<sup>(13)</sup>

On November 2, 1959, Oswald formally asked the U. S. Government to revoke his citizenship. He signed an affidavit stating:

"I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic."<sup>(14)</sup>

Oswald was bitter because the United States Consul in Moscow suggested that he "think over" his decision to take an oath renouncing American citizenship. He turned in his passport to Embassy officials and left, saying he would let the Soviet government handle legal details when, and if, he became a citizen of the Soviet Union.

Upon hearing of Oswald's defection, the Marine Corps gave him an undesirable discharge from the Marine Reserve. When word of this reached Oswald in Russia, he wrote a letter to John Connally, Secretary of the Navy, saying:

"I shall employ all means to right this gross mistake or injustice to a bonafide U. S. citizen and ex-serviceman."<sup>(15)</sup>

Connally, who had just resigned to run for Governor of Texas, turned Oswald's letter over

to his successor, Fred North, and no action was taken.

In April, 1961, Oswald met Marina Nicholaevna Proosakova, a hospital worker in Minsk. After six weeks, they were married in a state ceremony.

In January, 1962, Oswald, still in Minsk, wrote Senator John G. Tower (Republican, Texas), claiming that he, a United States citizen, was being held in Russia against his will, and asking Tower to intercede. Tower did not intercede. He merely sent Oswald's letter to the State Department.

In February, 1962, Oswald wrote the U. S. Embassy in Moscow, asking for a passport to return to the United States: Russian authorities had not accepted his request for citizenship, and Oswald refused to stay in the Soviet Union as a resident alien.

For reasons not yet made public, the U. S. Embassy in Moscow (acting on orders from the State Department) on May 24, 1962, renewed Oswald's passport, and amended it to include an infant daughter (born in February of that year); gave Oswald's Russian wife a non-quota visa to enter the United States; and advanced Oswald \$435.71 for travel expenses back to America.<sup>(16)</sup>

Oswald and his family arrived in the United States at the Port of New York on June 13, 1962.<sup>(17)</sup> During the late summer of 1962, he allegedly was in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, calling on non-communist refugees, seeking their help in finding employment. None would have anything to do with him, because they feared him as a dedicated communist. They feared that Oswald was trying to get information about them for the Soviet secret police — which is known to operate in the United States, under United Nations cover.<sup>(18)</sup>

Early in 1963, Oswald was in New Orleans, where he became active (under the name of A. J. Hidell) in the Fair Play For Cuba Committee. This organization was founded in New York in 1960 to support Fidel Castro. According to the

Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, formation of the organization was financed by money from the Cuban mission to the United Nations.<sup>(1)</sup>

During this period (early 1963), Oswald wrote the State Department applying for another passport, saying he wanted to visit England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Poland, and Russia. The new passport was issued to Oswald at New Orleans on June 25, 1963.<sup>(1)</sup>

Carlos Bringuier, a Cuban anti-Castro patriot, told Associated Press reporters that Oswald had attempted to infiltrate a Cuban anti-Castro organization, by offering himself (as a former Marine) to train Cubans for an invasion of the island. Bringuier said:

"I was suspicious of him from the start . . . . Then a few days later, I encountered him on Canal Street distributing 'Viva Castro' literature. We took all his propaganda away from him. Then the police came and arrested a lot of us . . . . The charges against all of us but Oswald were dismissed."<sup>(1)</sup>

Oswald was fined \$10 for disturbing the peace, and released.<sup>(1)</sup>

On August 21, 1963 (shortly after his arrest in the street fight) Oswald appeared as a guest on a New Orleans radio program — known as "Conversation Carte Blanche," station WDSU. During the broadcast, Oswald identified himself as a marxist.

The Cuban Student Directorate in Miami reports that Oswald was President of the New Orleans Fair Play For Cuba Committee, and that the national organization transferred him from New Orleans to Dallas, late in August, 1963, following his interview on the radio program.<sup>(1)</sup>

The exact time of Oswald's move from New Orleans to Dallas is not generally known. Mrs. Ruth Paine, of Irving, Texas (who had met the Oswalds in Dallas), somehow heard that Mrs. Oswald was destitute in New Orleans, with one small child, expecting another. Mrs. Paine says that, while driving back to Dallas after a vacation

in the East, she stopped off in New Orleans to see Mrs. Oswald. On September 23, 1963, she brought Oswald's wife and child to her home in Irving. Mrs. Paine, formerly a Russian language teacher, said she thought she and Mrs. Oswald could help each other.

On September 26, 1963, *The Dallas Morning News* published an article on William J. Lowery, a Dallas salesman who had been operating as an undercover informant for the FBI on communist activities. Lowery said the communist party, concentrating recruiting efforts on college students, minority groups, and labor unions, has had a great deal of success and is growing in Texas.

On September 26, 1963, Dallas newspapers also publicized President Kennedy's scheduled visit to Dallas in November. On that same day, Oswald crossed the border into Mexico at Nuevo Laredo. On September 27, he talked with the Cuban consul at Mexico City, requesting a visa for travel to the Soviet Union, via Cuba. When told that he must wait about three weeks for clearance from the Cuban foreign ministry, Oswald left in anger. On September 28, he visited the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City requesting the visa, identifying himself as "a militant communist, married with a Soviet citizen," and saying that he had resided three years in the Soviet Union. When told that he must wait for clearance from the Soviet foreign ministry, Oswald left — again in anger.

Oswald arrived in Dallas from Mexico on October 4, and stayed at the YMCA. On October 14, 1963, in the middle of the night (using the alias, O. H. Lee), he rented a room at 1026 North Beckley Avenue, for \$8.00 a week. This rooming house is less than a mile west of the Texas School Book Depository firm (Elm and Houston Streets, on the edge of downtown Dallas) where Oswald got a job, as stock clerk, on October 15, 1963.

The fact that Oswald, on October 15, got a job in a building that was on President Kennedy's

parade route six weeks later has given rise to much speculation; but it may have been an accident of fate. The public did not know that the presidential parade would pass the corner of Elm and Houston until November 16, 1963. An exact map of the route was published on November 21, the day before the visit.

R. S. Truly, superintendent of the book depository firm, later said of Oswald:

"He was a pretty quiet individual. His work was fine and I had no reason to believe . . . no idea the man had ever been in Russia."

There have been persistent reports that the FBI knew all about Lee Harvey Oswald's background, knew where his wife resided in Irving, and knew where he worked in Dallas. In this regard, the only thing which the public knows as a certainty is that the Dallas police did not know of communist Oswald's employment in a building on the presidential parade route—or even of his presence in Dallas. According to reports, the police did have, however, a list of persons branded as "extreme rightists," who were to be kept under surveillance during the President's visit.

After Oswald's arrest, police and sheriff's deputies found among his effects five or six metal files containing notes and correspondence. They also found \$150.00, although Oswald earned only \$1.25 an hour at the book depository. The Oswald files were all given to the FBI, and the public does not know what they contained. Police surmise, however, that they contained a wealth of information about the man's communist activities—and possibly about his contacts, and the source of his money.

Assistant District Attorney William F. Alexander has revealed that some of the correspondence found in Oswald's effects consisted of letters from leaders of the communist party of the United States, thanking Oswald for his activities. Other letters were from the Fair Play For Cuba Committee, thanking Oswald for past services, giving him suggestions about organizing chapters of that organization.

During the 48-hour period between Oswald's arrest on November 22 and his murder on November 24, he not only admitted, but arrogantly boasted to police, that he was a "marxist."

## The Haters

Most of the information about Oswald's communist activities (summarized above) was publicized within a few hours after his arrest; but this did not seem to matter to liberals and self-styled "moderates" (in Dallas and elsewhere), who, for many days, poured out an incredible volume of hate, not against communists, but against constitutional conservatives—calling them "right-wing extremists," "bigots," "right-wing fanatics."

Immediately after the President's assassination, the Voice of America (U.S. Government overseas broadcasting agency) notified the world that the President had been killed in Dallas, "center of the extreme right-wing movement." This official broadcast of the U.S. Government was taken overseas, of course, to mean that American anti-communist conservatives are anarchists and assassins, that Dallas is a hotbed of such people, and that the U.S. Government presumed them guilty of murdering the President.<sup>(1)</sup>

As soon as Oswald was arrested and identified, VOA deleted, from its overseas broadcast, reference to right-wing extremists in Dallas, but was careful *not* to mention that the arrested assassin was an admitted communist. It was approximately 12 hours after Oswald's arrest before VOA told the world that the man was a "marxist."<sup>(2)</sup>

When asked to explain, Mr. Henry Loomis, Director of Voice of America, defended the original branding of Dallas as a "center of the extreme right-wing movement" by saying:

"It was a fact. Tass [Soviet news agency] knew this beforehand . . . Things were running in circles."<sup>(3)</sup>

Concerning VO's 12-hour delay in broadcasting the *known fact* that the assassin was an admitted communist, Mr. Loomis said:

"We bend over backward to be careful."<sup>(1)</sup>

United States Representative Harry R. Shepard (Democrat, California) described his first reaction to the news of the President's assassination:

"The first impression I had — a hasty one at that — was that I had never liked the tenor of the so-called Dan Smoot writings of that area. He's an extremist whose writings are not only flamboyant, but are inclined to be of a violent nature and inclined toward character assassination."

"Further, in that general area you have a considerable grouping of a so-called Welch crowd. It has been apparent that it is a very inflammable area . . . Be it right or wrong, that was my first basic thinking . . ."<sup>(2)</sup>

On November 24, 1963, *The Daily Sentinel*, Grand Junction, Colorado, editorialized on the assassination, without mentioning the name of the assassin or even hinting that he was a communist. *The Daily Sentinel* put all the blame on Dallas conservatives:

"It is not surprising that the assassination took place in a city where . . . the heat of hatred and vilification has run so high that special security precautions were necessary."

Others vaguely included communists in their denunciation of Dallas by saying that both the "extreme left" and the "extreme right" were responsible; but they concentrated their hatred on the "extreme right" — seeming to equate criticism of the fallen President with treason and homicidal tendencies.

Perhaps the most regrettable remarks were made by the Reverend William A. Holmes, pastor of the Northaven Methodist Church in Dallas. Mr. Holmes spoke on a national CBS television program on November 26, 1963, alleging that children in Dallas schools cheered when they heard of the President's assassination. Mr. Holmes' point was that these children were from the families of political conservatives who had

taught their youngsters to hate the leaders of our nation. Many persons who watched the broadcast felt that Mr. Holmes himself oozed hatred while denouncing the alleged "rightist" haters of Dallas.

In one Dallas suburban grade school, the principal was so shaken by the news of the President's assassination, that he sent children home without telling them why. A few children left, shouting gleefully, "We are free!" But no Dallas school children cheered the death of President Kennedy. There was no accuracy in Mr. Holmes' story. Nonetheless, Methodist preachers of Dallas, at a hastily-convened conference on November 29, formally adopted a resolution expressing "wholeheartedly our defense of our brother William A. Holmes' right and every other minister's right to the freedom of the pulpit to declare the mind and spirit of Christ in every area of human life."<sup>(3)</sup>

As if anyone had even hinted that a preacher should be denied freedom to declare the mind and spirit of Christ!

Mr. Holmes might have expressed sorrow over the fact that public school officials could not, in the hour of national shock and sorrow, call children together for prayer, because the Supreme Court has outlawed such prayer in our public schools. Mr. Holmes did not do that. He, and many others like him, chose, rather, to deliver tirades about political conservatives.

Following the murder of Oswald, K. W. Cornell, Associated Press staff writer, wrote an article for *The Dallas Times Herald* (Monday, November 25, 1963) based on interviews with numerous clergymen. Here is a sentence from the lead paragraph:

"But the nation's moral leaders said this killing, like the assassination of the President, reflected a blight in the temper of the people."

Oswald was a psychotic misanthrope. He mirrored the hate and lawless violence characteristic of communism; but it is an insult to the United States to say that he in any way, or to any degree, reflected the "temper of the people."

## Constitutional Conservatives

Dallas conservatism does not represent any special group. It is a product of individual taste and breeding. It is a way of life, a spirit, a faith. It is a conviction which neither springs from bigotry nor produces it. It is the progeny of American heritage. The strength of conservative conviction in Dallas is nourished by roots planted in the Texas frontier. In that sense, we are unique; but in a larger sense, constitutional conservatives of Dallas are like constitutional conservatives everywhere else in America: they revere the Founding Fathers of this nation and want to re-establish the constitutional system which they created.

The War for American Independence (which the Founding Fathers led to a successful conclusion) was unlike any other so-called revolution in history. The French Revolution of the 18th Century was conceived in hate and executed in violence. Its purpose was the same as that of the bolshevik revolution in 20th-century Russia: to overturn and destroy the existing order of things and to murder the existing leaders of society. The American Revolution was not tinged with such purpose. The Founding Fathers, in rebelling against England, were resisting political tyranny—to preserve and improve the existing order.

They feared concentration of political power, and they feared anarchy. Out of their wisdom and their fears, their experience and their great learning, they created the most marvelous governmental system ever conceived in the minds of men. Believing in government by law, and not government by the whims of men, they wrote the Constitution which was a binding contract—not only upon government but upon the people as well. By restricting government to the exercise of specifically-granted powers, the Constitution was intended to prohibit government officials from usurping power and thus becoming lawless tyrants, under pretext of helping the people. Ultimate power to change the organic structure of government was left in

the hands of the people—the means of making such change (amending the Constitution) was carefully prescribed to militate against hasty, unwise decisions by the people. This system, unique in history, was designed to prevent both tyranny by government, and reckless rebellion by the people.

For 30 years, American liberals have supported *lawless government*—government not bound by the specific terms of the Constitution, but usurping power to do anything which officialdom claims will promote the general welfare. Constitutional conservatives resist lawless government, because they know it produces a lawless society. The end is either wild anarchy or oppressive dictatorship. The fervor and dedication of constitutional conservatives stems not from hate, but from a sense of urgency: they want to restore *lawful* constitutional government, by *lawful* means, before it is too late.

## The Harvest?

The current furor of liberal hatred for conservatives may conceal a sense of guilt. The warped mind of Lee Harvey Oswald was first attracted to communism by communist propaganda leaflets. Conservatives abhor governmental censorship (even of communist propaganda) which violates constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Conservatives also abhor the distribution of communist propaganda in the United States at taxpayers' expense. Liberalism, however, decrees that communist propaganda must be distributed in the United States, without restriction, at the expense of the American people.<sup>(1)</sup>

Constitutional conservatives do not believe in violating the constitutional rights of anyone, not even of communists; but they have for years contended that communists should not be given preferential treatment. Conservatives have been particularly concerned about State Department softness toward communism. What else, but this liberal attitude of special friendliness toward com-

munists, could have prompted the State Department to renew Oswald's passport and pay his way back to the United States, after he had renounced American citizenship—and then, a year later, grant him another passport to go to the Soviet Union?

During the last three years, virtually all liberal spokesmen in the United States berate "extreme-rightists" for asserting that communism is dangerous in the United States. The liberal line is that communists are *not* dangerous—that, indeed, "right-wing extremists" are far more harmful than communists.

Could that explain why Dallas police had a list of so-called "rightists" to watch but were not told that a known communist, an expert rifleman, worked in a building on the presidential parade route?

As pointed out before, the public does not know what the FBI knew, or had done, about Oswald. Oswald loudly proclaimed his hatred of the United States, and boasted of his communist activities. Hence, if the FBI did *not* know where he lived and worked from October 15 to November 22, this fact alone must reflect the attitude of Robert Kennedy, Attorney General of the United States. Note a United Press International dispatch from Washington, published March 7, 1962, under the headline "U. S. Reds Harmless Says Bob Kennedy." Here are passages from the article:

"Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy said yesterday the U. S. Communist party is a 'wind-mill' virtually powerless to hurt the government. He criticized 'hysteria' about the party's activities. 'They can't do anything to us' . . . the President's brother said."

All FBI reports go to the Attorney General, who is above the FBI Director, in the chain of command. If the FBI *did* report that communist Os-

wald was working in a building overlooking the presidential parade route in Dallas, why did Attorney General Robert Kennedy not do something about it? Because only "right-wing extremists" are considered dangerous?

One sentence in a letter from a subscriber to this *Report* sums up a lot:

"If our leaders had fought communism instead of McCarthyism, there would have been no Castro in Cuba, and no castrito Oswald in the United States to murder President Kennedy."

## Cover Up?

On November 26, 1963, President Johnson ordered the FBI to take charge of all evidence and to make a thorough investigation of the assassination, and of the subsequent murder of the assassin. He promised that FBI reports would be made public immediately.

On the same day—November 26—*The Worker* (communist party newspaper), in a long editorial praising the policies of the late President Kennedy and placing blame for his death on the "ultra-right," recommended that President Johnson appoint a special commission, under Chief Justice Earl Warren, to conduct the investigation.

Three days later—November 29—President Johnson appointed a special 7-man commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, to investigate the assassination and the murder of Oswald. The other six men on the commission:

Allen W. Dulles, former President of the Council on Foreign Relations and a director of the CFR since 1927; Representative Hale Boggs (liberal Democrat, Louisiana); Representative Gerald R. Ford (liberal Republican, Michigan); Senator John Sherman Cooper (liberal Republican, Kentucky); John J. McCloy, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Council on Foreign Relations since 1953, former Disarmament

Agency head; Senator Richard B. Russell (Democrat, Georgia), the only one of the group with perceptible conservative tendencies.

On December 2, 1963, a story in *The Dallas Morning News* revealed that the FBI reports will not be made public, as President Johnson had first promised. All investigative reports will be turned over to Warren's commission—which will "evaluate and report to the public."

Will the public ever get the full, true story?

## Motives

As reported last week, circumstances gave rise to the presumption that Jack Rubenstein and Oswald were involved together, with others unknown, in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy, and that Rubenstein murdered Oswald to silence him. Indications now are that this presumption may never be proved. History may record that the assassination and the murder were isolated acts of psychotics, with no calculated motives or purpose.

## WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Born in Missouri, reared in Texas, Dan Smoot went to SMU in Dallas, getting BA and MA degrees in 1938 and 1940. In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for a doctorate in American Civilization.

In 1942, he left Harvard and joined the FBI. As an FBI Agent, he worked for three and a half years on communist investigations in the industrial Midwest; two years on FBI headquarters staff in Washington; and almost four years on general FBI cases in various parts of the nation.

In 1951, Smoot resigned from the FBI and helped start Facts Forum. On Facts Forum radio and television programs, Smoot spoke to a national audience, giving both sides of controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his present independent publishing and broadcasting business — a free-enterprise operation financed entirely by profits from sales: sales of *The Dan Smoot Report*, a weekly magazine; and sales of a weekly news-analysis broadcast, to business firms, for use on radio and television as an advertising vehicle. The *Report* and the broadcast give only one side in presenting documented truth about important issues — the side that uses the American Constitution as a yardstick. The *Report* is available by subscription; and the broadcasts are available for commercial sponsorship, anywhere in the United States.

If you think Dan Smoot is providing effective tools for Americans fighting socialism and communism, you can help immensely — by helping him get more customers for his *Report* and broadcasts.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) *The Dallas Morning News*, November 23, 1963, Section 1, p. 6
- (2) *The Dallas Morning News*, November 24, 1963, Section 1, p. 3
- (3) *The Dallas Times Herald*, November 23, 1963, p. 6A
- (4) *Time*, Vol. 82, No. 22, November 29, 1963, p. 27
- (5) UPI story from Moscow, *The Dallas Morning News*, December 2, 1963, Section 1, p. 5
- (6) "A Variety of Red Spy Networks Cover U.S.," by Henry J. Taylor, *The Los Angeles Times*, October 12, 1962; *The Episode of the Russian Seamen, Report of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee*, May 12, 1956, 21 pp.
- (7) *Fair Play For Cuba Committee*, Hearings before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, February 27, 1961, 128 pp.
- (8) "In the Nation: The Modern Miracle and the Ancient Curse," by Arthur Krock, *The New York Times*, November 26, 1963, p. 36; "Broadcast to World: Voice of America Explains 'Far Right' Tag," by John Mashek, *The Dallas Morning News*, November 28, 1963, Section 1, p. 5
- (9) "Rep. Sheppard Shocked At Death of President," *The San Bernardino Daily Sun*, November 23, 1963, p. A-2
- (10) "Methodists Back 'Freedom of Pulpit,'" *The Dallas Morning News*, November 30, 1963, Section 1, p. 6
- (11) For a detailed discussion of communist propaganda distribution through American mail, see this *Report*, "We Pay For Communist Propaganda," May 28, 1962.